

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



# The Friday Letter

Vol. 12 No. 9

May 18, 1990

## On the Hill



On May 15, the House Agriculture Committee marked up and reported the nutrition-related provisions of H.R. 3950, the House version of the "Farm Bill."

The major amendments to the reported bill include:

- o increased penalties for trafficking in food stamps, offered by Rep. Glickman (D-KS)

- o increased authorization of funds for the Nutrition Assistance Program in Puerto Rico by Chairman de la Garza (D-TX)

- o provision for funds for Food Stamp Program outreach by de la Garza

- o provision for adjustments to the Thrifty Food Plan for Alaska and Hawaii by Rep. Emerson for Rep. Young (R-AK)

- o provision for disregard of certain general assistance vendor payments that currently count against food stamp income by Rep. Jontz (D-IN)

(H.R. 3950 Continued Page 6)

## FWP Sponsors Women's History Month

The theme for this year's Women's History Month was "Courageous Voices Echoing in Our Lives." The theme recalled the words and deeds of previous generations of women and the way their beliefs and ideals are reflected in our lives today. It also recalled the women in our own families who have sustained and passed on the cultural heritage that makes us the unique individuals we are. Finally, it recalled the women we have worked, studied, and played with who have influenced us in some way.



From left to right are FWP Comanager Eunice Bowman, Assistant Secretary Catherine Bertini, Administrator Betty Jo Nelsen, and Comanager Margaret Batko.

The keynote program was a speech by Assistant Secretary Catherine Bertini. Using her own experience from the 70's,

(WHM Continued Page 2)



(WHM Continued)

Bertini described the changes she has seen--from the first Women's Political Caucus held in New York in 1971 until the 1977 National Women's Conference in Houston. She pointed out that we were all "pathfinders" in the 70's, exploring untraversed regions to mark out a new route. She went on to say that pathfinders have a harder job than those who come after. If today it sometimes seems that young women take their opportunities for granted, it is important to remember that the work done in the 70's was done so that women would not have to think about those things again.

Other programs for Women's History Month included "Saving Lives Through Education" and "Women In Transition."

-Story by Margaret Batko  
Food Stamp Program  
Photo by Pamela Faith  
Public Information Staff

## MARO

"The 21st century will belong to women," predicted renowned businesswoman and keynote speaker Mary Roebling at MARO's Women's History Month kickoff luncheon.



Renowned businesswoman Mary Roebling receives a certificate of appreciation from Federal Women's Program Manager Linda Shelden as (from the right) Deputy Regional Administrator John McClellan and Regional Administrator Chris Martin applaud her efforts.

In 1937, Roebling, a pioneer in the banking industry, became the first woman elected president and board chairman of a major American banking institution. She also was the first woman governor of the American Stock Exchange and the first woman of the Union League of Philadelphia.

"Women of America have fought and continue to fight for their rights and well-being. You've won the battle of equality and now you must join or perhaps lead the battle for human survival," Roebling said.

Two other speakers gave presentations during the month. Janice Newman, acting director for New Jersey's Division for Woman, addressed the topic of "Courageous Leaders: A Tradition of Women Climbing the Ladder of Success." Newman said, "We should pay attention to the courageous leaders of our past so we can better see where we are going in the future. Our past is not that far behind us and women of today will be making the history for the coming generations."

State Senator Catherine Costa of Burlington County, New Jersey, stressed the need for equality by example. One of her most valued accomplishments was to be named "New Jersey's Mother of the Year." This award is given to one mother in each state for achievements accomplished while raising a family.

Reflecting this year's theme was an exhibit entitled, "Women and the Constitution" which was displayed throughout the month.

-Story and photo by Kim Jabat  
MARO Public Affairs Staff

## WRO

WRO activities were kicked off on International Women's Day by Acting Regional Administrator Jack Boozer and Federal Women's Program Manager Anne Silverman, at a program highlighting women in aviation. Eleanor Morgan (Child Nutrition) talked about her experiences as a Women's Air Service Pilot during World War II. The



(WHM Continued)

following day, the main conference room was filled with an impressive travelling photo display of women in American history, developed by the Bay Area Federal Women's Council.

A video titled, "There's no such Thing as Women's Work" was also shown. It reviewed women's role in the workforce throughout American history. Karen Polk, food program specialist in the Food Stamp Program, directed a reading of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's short, partly autobiographical story, "The Yellow Wallpaper," starring food program specialists Cecilia Tellez (WIC) and Peter Bauer (Food Stamp Program), and Public Affairs specialist Dee Amaden.

More than a third of WRO employees also brought their mothers to work during the month--displaying pictures and brief biographical sketches for fellow employees to identify. Demetris Lawrence (Personnel) won the contest matching the most moms and coworkers. The contest was especially significant, said FWP Manager Anne Silverman, "because it encouraged communication and enabled us to learn more about each other."

A special thanks to Katherine Syromiatnikoff, Food Stamp Program, for the daily LAN-o-grams, which also "wrote women back into history."

-Story by Dee Amaden  
WRO Public Affairs Staff

---

## Assistant Secretary Bertini and Administrator Nelsen Visit SWRO

New Orleans, dressed in the bright yellow, purple, and green colors of Mardi Gras, played host to the Seventh Annual National Association of WIC Directors Conference, and its guest speakers Assistant Secretary Catherine Bertini and Administrator Betty Jo Nelsen. Nelsen's and Bertini's itineraries also included visits to several local program sites.

Nelsen's 2-day trip began with a gathering of Louisiana and New Orleans officials who manage the state and local CSF and WIC Programs. Following the brief meeting, she toured the Food for Families commodity warehouse and visited Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, a commodity distribution site managed by the Archdiocese of New Orleans.



Discussing the Archdiocese's CSF Program are (left to right) Tim Robertson, director of the Food for Families/Food for Seniors Programs; Gene Dickey, SWRO administrator; Cheryl L. Bates, a member of the Select Committee on Hunger, headed by the late Rep. Mickey Leland (D-TX); and Administrator Betty Jo Nelsen.

Nelsen spent the afternoon meeting with the Indian Coalition of the National Association of Welfare Directors (NAWD) and the NAWD Executive Committee. She visited with regional and headquarters WIC staffs and was honored with an evening reception held by NAWD.

On day two, Nelsen, in her first speech as administrator, addressed the conference participants. Her remarks, titled "WIC is Changing--A Review of the Past, a Peek at the Future," focused on her goals for FNS, one of which is a greater commitment to serving the needs of clients. She then addressed the Administration's support of WIC.

(Bertini/Nelsen Continued Page 4)

(Bertini/Nelsen Continued)

"Because President Bush is a strong supporter, WIC has escaped any mention of a reduction," she said. She discussed WIC rebates, the plight of the working poor, and coping with program growth. The administrator's remarks were well received.

The afternoon was spent visiting various other commodity distribution sites and neighborhood "tailgate" operations before departing.

Assistant Secretary Bertini began her 2-day trip to New Orleans with a site visit--lunch with the kindergartners of St. Mary Magdalen Elementary School. Bertini sat with the children and chatted as they ate a school lunch featuring Louisiana gumbo and Mardi Gras "King Cake." In the afternoon, she met with the local and state officials who manage Louisiana's WIC and CSF Programs and toured the St. Bernard Parish WIC clinic.

In the last general session of the conference, Bertini expressed her interest in the comments and concerns brought to her attention by WIC professionals during her visit. She opened the floor for questions and gave replies concerning regulation changes, the formula rebate program, client needs, and other WIC-related issues. She urged them to continue their



During a tour of a CSFP warehouse, Assistant Secretary Catherine Bertini discusses the availability of commodity cheese with Ben Johnson of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, the agency that manages the local program.

dedicated efforts in serving our nation's mothers and babies and to come to FNS when things should be changed in order to better serve the clients who depend on us.

-Story and photos by Bonnie Fuller  
SWRO Public Affairs Staff

---

## Family Reunited With Son

Burt McIntire of the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Field Office and his wife Bopha were recently reunited with Bopha's 9-year-old son Samnang from Kampuchea, formerly Cambodia. Prior to arriving in the United States, Samnang had been living with his aunt and uncle outside of Phenom Phen.

McIntire had not seen her son since she left him with her mother 8 years ago. She had survived living in a Pol Pot prison camp and a Thailand refugee camp

before coming to the United States in 1981. Since then she has returned to Cambodia and Thailand to search for other surviving family members.

The McIntires worked with Senator John Heinz (R-PA) and a number of church groups to find Samnang and reunite him with the family.

In 1987, the McIntires also located and gained custody of Bopha's eldest son, Malou.

-Story by Kim Jabat  
MARO Public Affairs



## Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of February with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>Feb. 1989</u>	<u>Jan. 1990</u>	<u>Feb. 1990</u> <u>2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>			
People participating (mil.) .....	18.8	19.8	19.9
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.) .....	977.0	1,160.5	1,164.0
Average bonus per person .....	\$ 52.04	\$ 58.71	\$ 58.50
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	1,078.7	1,274.6	1,278.1
<u>National School Lunch Program:</u>			
Number of schools participating (thous.) .....	91.5	91.3	91.3
Children participating (mil.) .....	24.0	23.9	24.3
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (mil.) .....	11.4	11.4	11.6
Percentage of lunches served free .....	40.8	40.5	40.9
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price. ....	6.7	6.9	6.9
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	361.5	419.0	406.1
<u>School Breakfast Program:</u>			
Number of schools participating (thous.) .....	40.0	42.8	42.8
Children participating (mil.) .....	3.8	3.9	4.0
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price .....	87.0	86.6	86.3
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	50.2	60.8	59.0
<u>Child and Adult Care Food Program:</u>			
Number of meals served in centers (mil.) .....	37.9	43.0	42.8
Number of meals served in homes (mil.) .....	32.1	39.3	38.9
Percentage of all meals served free .....	79.0	79.7	79.3
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	55.5	68.5	68.1
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>			
People participating (mil.) .....	4.0	4.6	4.6
Food cost (\$ mil.) .....	120.8	139.4	140.9
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	149.8	177.6	179.7
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/</u>			
People participating (thous.) .....	222.8	286.3	278.4
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	3.9	5.8	5.6
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>			
Number of projects in operation .....	108	109	109
People participating (thous.) .....	142.4	144.0	141.5
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	5.0	5.2	4.9
<u>Total USDA Food Donations (All Programs):</u>			
Entitlement Foods (\$ mil.) .....	71.3	93.1	94.9
Bonus Foods (\$ mil.) .....	45.6	28.6	25.8
Temporary Emergency Food Assistance (TEFAP) ..	17.7	19.2	15.8

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of April 24, 1990.

3/ Includes data for all elderly participants.

## Friday Letter Vanancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Math. Statistician	(A)	GS-1529	9/12	05/21/90	90-H-23*	HNIS
o Statistician	(A)	GS-1530	7/9	05/29/90	90-H-71	HNIS
o Program Analyst	(A)	GS-0345	9/13	05/21/90	90-76	OAE
o Mail Clerk	(A)	GS-0305	4/5	06/04/90	90-77	HNIS
o Secretary Typing	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0318	4/5	05/22/90	90-78	NTSD
o Nutritionist	(A)	GS-0630	9/11	06/11/90	90-79	NTSD
o Food Program Officer	(A)	GM-0120	14	06/18/90	90-80	FDD
o Management Analyst	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0343	12	06/05/90	90-81	IRMD

### Office Location

HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service  
 FDD - Food Distribution Division  
 NTSD - Nutrition and Technical Services Division  
 OAE - Office of Analysis and Evaluation  
 IRMD - Information Resource Management Division

\* - Reannouncement

### Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources  
 (FNS-HQ) - Food and Nutrition Service-Hdqrs.

(H.R. 3950 Continued)

o provision to adjust allocation of FSP Employment and Training Funds by de la Garza

o lower TEFAP to \$175 million authorization for fiscal year 1991 by Reps. Hatcher (D-GA) and Emerson (R-MO)

Full Senate Agriculture Committee markup is not yet scheduled.

-Story by Robert Beard  
 Governmental Affairs Staff



***Have a Safe  
 Memorial Day!***